[7th August 1939

loan stands at Rs. 98. This, Sir, considering the international situation is a very good certificate for the credit of the Province."

Scheme, if any, for the benefit of the tenants of ryotwari landlords.

* 2 *Q.*—MR. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to refer to the answer given to my supplementary question to question No. 196 on 21st March 1939 and to state whether Government have framed any scheme for the amelioration of tenants of ryotwari landlords other than those in Malabar and South Kanara districts, and if so, what?

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"The answer is in the negative except that the scope of enquiry by the Malabar Tenancy Committee extends also to the Gudalur taluk of the Nilgiris district."

Capital cost of the thermal station at Vizagapatam and the cost of the Vizianagram Electricity Scheme.

* 3 *Q.*—SRI P. VEERABHADRASWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total capital cost of the thermal station at Vizagapatam up to 1st April 1939; and

(*b*) what amount the Government have spent for the Vizianagram Electricity Scheme in the year 1938–39 and what amount they propose to spend in this year?

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—"(*a*) Rs. 17,72,287.

(*b*) Rs. 1,06,173 and Rs. 37,000 respectively."

Report on the fire havoc in Cinchona Plantations in Anamalais in March 1939.

* 4 *Q.*—MR. J. A. SALDANHA: With reference to the answer given to my question No. 217 on 25th March 1939, will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development be pleased to place before the House—

(*a*) the report of the officer appointed to enquire into the extent and causes of the fire in the Cinchona Plantations in the Anamalai hills on 7th March 1939; and

(*b*) the Government views thereon?

THE HON. SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"(*a*) & (*b*) The Government do not consider it necessary to place the report on the table of the House. The findings of the Collector on the origin and cause of the fire are as follows:—

(i) the fire originated in the reserve forest and spread westwards and to the south of the forest road;

7th August 1939]

(ii) the causes of the fire spreading into and through the Cinchona Plantations were the wind, the dryness of the trees and the undergrowth, and the fact that there was no clear felled area between the reserve and the Cinchona Plantations;

(iii) there is no reason to suspect incendiarism; the fire was possibly accidental; and

(iv) the allegation that men of the Forest Department started fires near Sawyers' lines on March 3rd and that these fires caused the fire in the Cinchona Plantation is unfounded.

" The Government have accepted these findings and issued necessary instructions regarding the measures to be taken for preventing such fires in future."

MR. J. A. SALDANHA :—" May I know why the Government think that the Collector's report should not be placed before the House? "

THE HON. SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI :—" I have already mentioned the four points on which the Collector has arrived at his conclusions. It is not possible to publish the report alone, because there are many enclosures to it without which the report will not be intelligible."

MR. J. A. SALDANHA :—" May I know, Sir, who started the rumour that the men of the Forest Department started the fires? "

THE HON. SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI :—" I cannot exactly say who started this rumour, but it may be some coolies near the plantations."

MR. J. A. SALDANHA :—" But who gave currency to that rumour? How did the Government come to know of it? "

THE HON. SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI :—" The Government came to know of it first from the papers and later on from the report of the Director in charge of the Cinchona Plantations."

Grant of licences and levy of licence fees by Bellary Municipality in respect of encroachments.

* 5 *Q.*—SRI B. BHEEMA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Provincial Government suggested to the Bellary Municipality the granting of licences and the levy of licence fees in respect of encroachments; and